



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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SUPERFUND DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: National Remedy Review Board Findings on the Fernald
Environmental Management Project Site - OU3

FROM: Bruce Means, Chairman 
National Remedy Review Board

TO: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division
EPA Region 5

Purpose.

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the findings of the National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) on the proposed remedial action described as OU3 for the Fernald Environmental Management Project Site in Ohio.

Background.

As you recall, the NRRB was established as one of the October 1995 Superfund Administrative Reforms to help control remedy costs and promote both consistent and cost-effective decisions at Superfund sites. All proposed cleanup actions are to be reviewed by the Board where: (1) the estimated cost of the preferred alternative exceeds \$30M; or (2) the preferred alternative costs over \$10 M and this cost is 50% greater than that of the least-costly, protective, ARAR-compliant alternative. In its review, the NRRB considers the nature and complexity of the site; health and environmental risks; the range of alternative actions considered to address site risks; the quality and reasonableness of the cost estimates for alternatives; regional, State/tribal, and other stakeholder opinions on the proposed actions to the extent they are known at the time of review; and any other relevant factors or program guidances.

Generally, the NRRB makes "advisory recommendations" to the appropriate Regional decision maker prior to issuance of the proposed plan who is expected to give the Board's recommendations substantial weight. However, other important factors may influence the final Regional decision such as subsequent public comment or technical analyses of remedial options. It is important to remember that the NRRB does not change the Agency's delegation authorities or alter in any way the public's current role in site decisions. This Reform is intended to bring to bear the program's extensive experience on decisions at a select number of high stakes sites.

NRRB Findings.

The NRRB reviewed relevant information submitted by Region 5 on OU 3 for the Fernald Environmental Management Project Site and discussed related issues with Region 5 staff on March 4 and 12, 1996. A representative from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency participated in the conference call on March 12. Based on this review and related discussion, the NRRB finds the proposed remedy to be cost-effective and consistent with other actions taken at this site. Further, the NRRB finds that the proposed remedial action fully satisfies the requirements set forth in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP) and applicable program guidance. Finally, the NRRB acknowledges that potentially cost-saving refinements to the remedy may occur during the design phase as a result of already planned value engineering studies, and the potential to recycle waste materials.

The Board members would like to thank Regional staff and management for their support and participation in this review process. If you have any questions about these findings, please call me at 703-603-8815.

cc: V. Adamkas
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